

**TRIBAL STAFF REPORT
SUMMER FACT SHEET No. 3 (Revised)
Columbia River Compact**

July 13, 2004 (Revised July 16)

<i>Purpose:</i> To consider treaty Indian commercial fishing options for the mainstem Columbia River.

Summer Chinook and Sockeye Forecasts and Run Size

The summer management period runs from June 1 to July 31.

Dam Counts to date in the summer season have been good for Chinook and sockeye and steelhead. Through July 12, 78,864 adult chinook, 119,982 sockeye, 20,945 Skamania steelhead, and over 16,000 A and B Index steelhead have passed Bonneville. At Lower Granite Dam at least 83 sockeye have passed. This year represents the largest sockeye count at Bonneville since 1987 and the second largest sockeye count at Lower Granite since 1983. About 7,800 summer season chinook have been counted at Lower Granite. Over 35,000 summer chinook have passed Priest Rapids Dam.

The updated forecast for sockeye is 124,700. At this run size (runs >75,000) the tribes will manage for no more than 7% harvest rate. This equates to an allowable catch of 8,729. At this time of year with this run size it will not be possible for the tribal fishery to achieve a 7% harvest rate.

The updated forecast for summer Chinook is 96,400. Under the Interim management agreement, the tribes would manage for a 5% impact on summer season Chinook which was designed to limit impacts on the Summer Component of the Snake River Spring/Summer ESU to 5%. 5% of 96,400 equals 4,280.

Tribal staff previously estimated that the tribal spring and summer season fisheries likely exceeded a 5% impact on the summer component of the Snake River Spring/Summer ESU. This was based on an analysis of PIT tagged Snake River summer chinook returns that showed the majority of the return (and presumably the harvest) occurred in mid to late May. Very likely the 5% impact was exceeded during the spring season fisheries. This analysis used both Imnaha and South Fork Salmon River summer Chinook which had very similar run timing in 2004.

Analysis of PIT tag data shows that at least 99% of the Snake River summer chinook have passed both Bonneville and McNary dams. The last observed adult Snake River summer chinook at Bonneville was on July 7. The last observed Snake River summer chinook at McNary was July 13.

Harvestable Summer Chinook

The 2001-3 Interim Management Agreement stipulates an interim management goal for upriver summer chinook of 85,000 at Bonneville during the summer management period. This goal is expected to be met within a few days. The goal was proposed at a time when there was less available data showing that much of the listed Snake River summer chinook run passes Bonneville during the current spring management period and a very high proportion has passed prior to June 15 (the end of the proposed new spring management period).

Currently the *U.S. v. Oregon* parties are considering an escapement goal at Priest Rapids Dam of about 20,000, and may equate to an corresponding goal at Bonneville Dam of 24,000. This goal is presumed to provide adequate natural spawning plus hatchery broodstock needs. Through July 15, 82,658 adult summer chinook have crossed Bonneville Dam. Since June 16, the time frame when Upper Columbia summer chinook dominate the run at Bonneville Dam, over 54,600 chinook have crossed the dam. Based on an escapement goal of 24,000 at Bonneville Dam, at least 30,600 Upper Columbia summer chinook are currently surplus to escapement needs.

Through July 15, 50,646 adult summer chinook have passed Priest Rapids Dam. TAC has not analyzed an appropriate methodology for determining the harvestable surplus for upper Columbia Summer chinook, nor have the *U.S. v. Oregon* Parties reached final agreement on an escapement goal. There is more than one reasonable way to estimate the number of harvestable fish. Using a very simplistic approach that will provide an estimate that is certainly biased quite low, one can

simply look at Priest Rapids dam passage. Based on a 20,000 goal, and a run of at least 54,600, there are actually at least 34,600 harvestable fish above Priest Rapids dam at this time. This method fails to consider current harvest to date and fish yet to pass Priest Rapids and is therefore a very low estimate. Simply using this number shows that there are more than 17,300 harvestable fish available for the states and for the tribal fisheries¹. It is unlikely that either the states or tribes could at this point harvest even this very low estimate of harvestable fish.

Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries and Harvest to Date

Currently the platform/hook and line fishery is open for subsistence and commercial use in all of Zone 6.

There have been two 2.5 day commercial gillnet periods.

Catches are shown in the July 12 TAC update.

The platform harvest estimates are 800 summer Chinook and 2,800 sockeye over the summer management period. The preliminary platform catch update through July 10 is 620 summer chinook and 3,180 steelhead and 2,450 sockeye.

The total Summer season chinook harvest to date is 5,034 which is a 5.2% harvest rate on the summer season Chinook run.

Tribal staff estimate that an additional 3.5 day gillnet fishery this week would likely harvest no more chinook (~2,000) than the previous 2.5 day openings due to lower dam counts and warmer weather. The sockeye catch would likely be no more than a few hundred sockeye due to rapidly declining sockeye counts.

Presuming that this weeks fishery harvests approximately 2,000 chinook, the total treaty catch after this weeks fishery (assuming the platform fishery runs through July) would total just over 7,000 chinook. This is less than the previously estimated minimum 17,300 harvestable Chinook.

¹ The U.S. v. Oregon parties have not reached final agreement on an escapement goal for Summer Chinook. Nor has TAC done any analysis converting a goal to a Bonneville run size. This harvestable surplus estimate is provided with the understanding that TAC has not discussed any appropriate methodologies for calculating harvestable surplus of upper Columbia Summer chinook.

Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery Proposal

Recommendation	
Dates:	Commercial Gillnet Fishery (3.5 days) 6:00 AM Wednesday July 14 until 6:00 PM Saturday July 17
Area:	All of Zone 6.
Gear:	No minimum mesh size restriction
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries remain in effect. The Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary is not necessary this time of year.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, sockeye, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold. Sturgeon between 4-5 feet in length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be retained for subsistence. Sturgeon between 45-60 inches in the Bonneville pool may also be retained for subsistence.
Miscellaneous Rules:	The quick reporting rule for Washington buyers will be in effect.

- The Compact previously took action to allow the sale of platform caught chinook and steelhead.
- The Compact also previously took action on tributary sales. The Yakama Nation will allow commercial sale of fish caught in their Zone 6 tributary fisheries that overlap with this period. The general fishing schedule for these tributaries is:

Tributary	Regularly Scheduled Opening	Allowed Commercial Sales
Big White Salmon River	Closed Sundays	Each weekly opening 6:00 AM Tues. to 6 PM Saturday. (no fishing Sundays)
Klickitat River	April 6 to Dec. 25 Noon Tue to 6 PM Sat	Each weekly opening Noon Tues. to 6 PM Saturday. (no fishing Sundays)

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
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